

CLAIMS:

1. A lifting device comprising:
an elongate shaft member extending in a longitudinal direction between respective first and second ends;
5 a hook member supported on the first end of the shaft member, the hook member being substantially straight along a hook axis lying substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the shaft member; and
a gripping member supported on the shaft member adjacent the second end thereof for being gripped in a hand of a person.
- 10 2. The device according to Claim 1 wherein the shaft member and the hook member are integrally formed of a single rod of material which has been deformed.
3. The device according to Claim 1 wherein the shaft member is circular in cross section at the first end thereof.
- 15 4. The device according to Claim 1 wherein the shaft member is approximately two feet in length.
5. The device according to Claim 1 wherein the shaft member and the hook member have a similar cross sectional dimension which is substantially less than 1/2 inch.
- 20 6. The device according to Claim 1 wherein the gripping member comprises a handle mounted on the shaft member transversely to the longitudinal direction of the shaft member and the hook axis.
7. The device according to Claim 6 wherein the handle is fixed in orientation relative to the shaft member and the hook member.
- 25 8. The device according to Claim 6 wherein the handle is injection molded about the second end of the shaft member.

9. The device according to Claim 8 wherein the second end of the shaft member is deformed before the handle is injection molded thereabout.

10. A lifting kit for lifting objects having a flat bottom supported on particulate material and the like, the kit comprising a plurality of lifting devices in accordance with Claim 1.

11. A method of lifting an object having a flat bottom supported on particulate material on the ground, the method comprising:

providing at least one lifting device comprising an elongate shaft member; a hook member supported on a first end of the shaft member to extend substantially straight along a hook axis lying substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the shaft member; and a gripping member supported on the shaft member adjacent a second end thereof;

positioning the hook member of said at least one lifting device adjacent and parallel to a respective side edge of the object;

lowering the hook member of said at least one lifting device along the respective side edge below a respective bottom edge of the object;

rotating the hook member of said at least one lifting device about a longitudinal axis of the shaft member until the hook member is positioned below the object; and

lifting said at least one lifting device.

12. The method according to Claim 11 including providing a plurality of lifting devices and positioning the lifting devices along opposing side edges of the object.

13. The method according to Claim 11 for an object comprising a first pre-cast concrete sidewalk slab positioned adjacent a second sidewalk slab of similar configuration, the method including inserting the hook member of said at

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least one lifting device in a gap defined between the first and second sidewalk slabs.